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10/17/2008
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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re U.S. Patent Application. of)	Confirmation No. 2328
)	
Christophe GOUTHIER et al.)	Examiner: Leo T. Hinze
)	
Serial No.: 10/811,845)	Art Unit: 2854
)	
Filed: March 30, 2004)	
)	
For: DIAL)	
)	

AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Further to the amendment filed July 7, 2008, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims begin on page 2 of this paper; and

Remarks begin on page 7 of this paper.

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AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Previously presented) A dial, comprising:

a substrate plate;

a semi-transparent layer covering at least part of said substrate plate of a material

allowing light to pass;

phosphorescent, fluorescent or luminescent luminous elements lodged in hollows made in said semi-transparent layer and open towards said substrate plate, said luminous elements forming an image that is visible in darkness;

wherein the semi-transparent layer is visible under normal lighting conditions and has a configuration that does not form an image, such that the hollows and the image of said luminous elements are not visible under normal lighting conditions.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Original) The dial of claim 1 wherein said luminous elements are applied by serigraphy, tampography or manually onto said substrate plate and/or onto said semi-transparent layer.

5. (Original) The dial of claim 1 wherein said semi-transparent layer is made of one of the following materials: mother-of-pearl; varnish; lacquer; glass; plastic.

6. (Original) The dial of claim 1 comprising a colored layer interposed between said substrate plate and said semi-transparent layer.

7. (Original) The dial of claim 6 wherein said colored layer is a coat of varnish.

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8. (Previously presented) The dial of claim 1 wherein said blind hollows are made by machining or by selective chemical attack.
9. (Previously presented) The dial of claim 10 wherein said blind hollows are made by machining or by selective chemical attack.
10. (Previously presented) A watch piece, comprising a dial, said dial comprising:
 - a substrate plate;
 - a semi-transparent layer covering at least part of said substrate plate of a material allowing light to pass;
 - phosphorescent, fluorescent or luminescent luminous elements lodged between said substrate plate and said semi-transparent layer to form an image that is visible in darkness; and
 - wherein said luminous elements are lodged in blind hollows made in said semi-transparent layer and open towards said substrate plate;
 - wherein the semi-transparent layer is visible under normal lighting conditions and has a configuration that does not form an image, such that the hollows and said luminous elements are not visible under normal lighting conditions.
11. (Cancelled)
12. (Cancelled)
13. (Previously presented) The dial of claim 1, wherein said semi-transparent layer and said luminous elements do not form any image that is visible under normal lighting conditions.
14. (Previously presented) The dial of claim 10, wherein said semi-transparent layer and said luminous elements do not form any image that is visible under normal lighting conditions.
15. (Currently amended) A dial consisting of:

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a substrate plate ~~with at least one marking visible under normal lighting conditions;~~

a continuous semi-transparent layer covering at least part of said substrate plate of a material allowing light to pass, the semi-transparent layer having at least one marking visible under normal lighting conditions;

phosphorescent, fluorescent or luminescent luminous elements lodged between said substrate plate and said semi-transparent layer, and wherein said luminous elements are lodged in blind hollows made in said semi-transparent layer and open towards said substrate plate;

wherein said luminous elements form an image that is visible in darkness, the semi-transparent layer is visible under normal lighting conditions and has a configuration that does not form an image, such that the hollows and said luminous elements are not visible under normal lighting conditions.

16. (Previously presented) The dial of claim 15 wherein said luminous elements are applied by serigraphy, tampography or manually onto said substrate plate and/or onto said semi-transparent layer.

17. (Previously presented) The dial of claim 15 wherein said semi-transparent layer is made of one of the following materials: mother-of-pearl; varnish; lacquer; glass; plastic.

18. (Canceled)

19. (Canceled)

20. (Previously presented) The dial of claim 15 wherein said blind hollows are made by machining or by selective chemical attack.

21. (Previously presented) A method comprising:

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providing a dial having a substrate plate and a semi-transparent layer covering at least part of said substrate plate of a material allowing light to pass,

lodging phosphorescent, fluorescent or luminescent luminous elements in hollows made in said semi-transparent layer and open towards said substrate plate,

forming with said luminous elements an image that is visible in darkness, and

hiding the image of said hollows and said luminous elements in normal lighting conditions by the semi-transparent layer, wherein the semi-transparent layer is configured to not form an image.

22. (New) A dial consisting of:

a substrate plate;

a continuous semi-transparent layer covering at least part of said substrate plate of a material allowing light to pass, the semi-transparent layer having at least one marking visible under normal lighting conditions;

phosphorescent, fluorescent or luminescent luminous elements lodged between said substrate plate and said semi-transparent layer, and wherein said luminous elements are lodged in blind hollows made in said semi-transparent layer and open towards said substrate plate; and,

a colored layer interposed between said substrate plate and said semi-transparent layer;

wherein said luminous elements form an image that is visible in darkness, the semi-transparent layer is visible under normal lighting conditions and has a configuration that does not form an image, such that the hollows and said luminous elements are not visible under normal lighting conditions.

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23. (New) The dial of claim 22 wherein said luminous elements are applied by serigraphy, tampography or manually onto said substrate plate and/or onto said semi-transparent layer.
24. (New) The dial of claim 22 wherein said semi-transparent layer is made of one of the following materials: mother-of-pearl; varnish; lacquer; glass; plastic.
25. (New) The dial of claim 22 wherein said colored layer is a coat of varnish.
26. (New) The dial of claim 22 wherein said blind hollows are made by machining or by selective chemical attack.

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REMARKS

INTERVIEW WITH EXAMINER

A telephone interview was conducted between undersigned counsel and Examiner Hinze on October 17, 2008. During the interview, the Examiner suggested changes to the claims that would place the application in condition for allowance. The Examiner is hereby authorized to make the changes presented in the current Amendment. New independent claim 22 combines claim 15 with claim 18, which has been canceled. New claims 23-26 are similar to dependent claims 16-21.

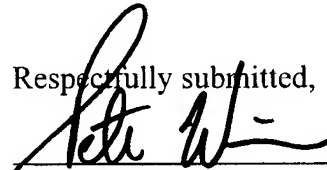
AUTHORIZATION TO CHARGE DEPOSIT ACCOUNT

The Examiner is authorized under MPEP §1302.04 to charge Deposit Account No. 23-2185 (128118.00101) for the extra claims (1 additional independent claim and 3 additional total claims (since claims 18 and 19 are canceled)) presented by this Amendment. Please also charge any shortage or credit any overpayment of fees to BLANK ROME LLP, Deposit Account No. 23-2185 (128118.0101). In the event that a petition for an extension of time is required to be submitted herewith and in the event that a separate petition does not accompany this response, applicant hereby petitions under 37 C.F.R. 1.136(a) for an extension of time. Any fees due are authorized above.

Date: October 17, 2008

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Respectfully submitted,



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